WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of monitoring soiling in a fabric, comprising the steps of:

    (a) providing the fabric with soiling-hiding yarns and at least one soiling-prone yarn; and

    (b) visually distinguishing the one soiling-prone yarn and soiling-hiding yarns in the fabric as an indicator of the extent of soiling of the fabric.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-hiding yarns include yarns formed of hollowfil fibers.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of tri-lobal fibers.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-hiding yarns include yarns formed of hollowfil fibers and the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers.

6. A method according to claim 1 including forming the fabric using a plurality of soiling-prone yarns.

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7. A method according to claim 6 including spacing the plurality of soiling-prone yarns or groups thereof from one another in at least selected areas of the fabric.

8. A method according to claim 1 including forming the fabric with predominately soiling-hiding yarns.

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises a synthetic fiber.

10. A method according to claim 1 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises one of a polylactic acid base, polyester, polypropylene, polyolefin, nylon, polyamide, or extruded metal fibers or fibers based upon naturally occurring non-synthetic material.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein said soil-hiding yarns comprise a synthetic fiber.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises one of a polylactic acid base, polyester, polypropylene, polyolefin, nylon, polyamide or extruded metal fibers or fibers based upon naturally occurring non-synthetic materials.

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the fabric comprises a carpet and including causing the soiling-prone yarn to visually stand out from the soil-hiding yarns in the technical face of the carpet in response to a soiling of the carpet, thereby visually indicating a need to clean the carpet.

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14. A method of monitoring soiling in a carpet, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming the carpet with yarns formed of hollowfil fibers and yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers to provide a carpet with visually non-distinguishable aesthetic characteristics on the technical face thereof when the carpet is clean; and

(b) visually distinguishing the yarns from one another in response to a soiling of the carpet.

15. A fabric having a soiling indicator therein comprising predominantly soiling-hiding yarns and at least one soiling-prone yarn enabling visual distinction between the soiling-hiding and soiling-prone yarns as an indicator of the extent of soiling of the fabric.

16. A fabric according to claim 15 wherein said one yarn is formed of synthetic multi-lobal fibers.

17. A fabric according to claim 16 wherein said one yarn is formed of tri-lobal fibers.

18. A fabric according to claim 16 wherein said predominantly soiling-hiding yarns are formed of synthetic hollowfil fibers.

19. A fabric according to claim 15 comprising a carpet, said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn visually appearing in the technical face of the carpet.

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20. A fabric according to claim 19 wherein said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn are tufted into a substrate forming part of the carpet.

21. A fabric according to claim 15 wherein said fabric has a face with said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn visually exposed in said face and indistinguishable from one another absent soiling of the fabric.

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